

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Every year countless children are diagnosed with different cancers, altering their lives forever.

Fourteen-year-old Kaitlyn Jankovsky of Corpus Christi was diagnosed last year with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Although her cancer and treatment have been a challenge, Kaitlyn has shown great tenacity in her fight against cancer.

Our country should take inspiration from children like Kaitlyn and thousands of others living with cancer every day. It is why I have introduced H. Res. 102 to designate a day in September as National Pediatric Bone Cancer Awareness Day.

Today we wish Kaitlyn and all the other children living with pediatric cancer well. Treatment and survival rates for pediatric bone cancer have remained virtually unchanged for a quarter of a century. For Kaitlyn and other children, let's start changing that.

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a topic near and dear to my heart: sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell is an inherited blood disease where red blood cells are abnormally shaped, making it hard to deliver oxygen throughout the body, often causing extreme pain, damaging vital organs, and possible stroke.

I have seen these effects firsthand. My sister died from sickle cell just 2 weeks before her 27th birthday. I will never forget the many night trips to the emergency room to get care for her, since we didn't have health insurance.

Back then we didn't know much about sickle cell disease. Today medical treatment and research for sickle cell has evolved. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, more people now have health insurance, but we must still support Federal efforts to fund additional research and treatment opportunities.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1807, the Sickle Cell Research Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act, which supports funding for advanced medical treatment and research.

My colleagues, please join me in recognizing September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month by supporting legislation to treat this disease and by keeping our government running so critical sickle cell research and treatment can continue at the National Institutes of Health.

SEQUESTRATION IS HURTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to how sequestration and the current dysfunction in the House is hurting the American people, our infrastructure, our education, our national security, and our veterans. Sequestration has caused a severe slowdown in our job growth in this country, especially as it affects the middle class.

We have seen reduction of job growth resulting in the potential loss of close to 800,000 American jobs. These are jobs my constituents in Baltimore County region desperately need. Just yesterday my staff met with a constituent from Owings Mills, Maryland, who was laid off from a defense contractor due to sequestration cuts.

The current fiscal year 2016 transportation and housing appropriation bill cuts TIGER grants, which are used to fund critical highway, transit, and important investments, by approximately \$400 million. That is less than the fiscal year 2015 level and \$1.2 billion less than the President's request. We need this transportation money for jobs. Our infrastructure is failing.

We cannot stay competitive without investment. Sequestration is not the answer. Continuing resolutions are not the answer. Passing the buck is not the answer. It is time for Congress to stop the nip-and-tuck tactics and make tough decisions about our priorities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2082) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2082

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

- Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.
- Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.
- Sec. 104. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.
- Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.
- Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.
- Sec. 107. Extension of authority for DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.
- Sec. 108. Extension of authority for joint Department of Defense–Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.
- Sec. 109. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

- Sec. 201. Extension of authority for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.
- Sec. 202. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.
- Sec. 203. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.
- Sec. 204. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

- Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.
- Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.
- Sec. 303. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
- Sec. 305. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 306. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.
- Sec. 307. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.
- Sec. 308. Extension of authority to provide referral and counseling services for certain veterans at risk of homelessness.